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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program



A plan for every size herd

STANDARD DHIA

OWNER SAMPLER

WEIGH-A-DAY-A-MONTH

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dairy-Herd-Improvement Letter

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DHIA RULES

(Revised and Accepted by the American Dairy Science Association in June 1965)

1. STANDARD EQUIPMENT AND METHODS

All equipment and methods shall conform to the standards and methods set by the American Dairy Science Association and/or the State regulatory agency. The accuracy of all equipment shall be checked as frequently as necessary to insure that equipment is operating within the standards established by ADSA.

The ADSA Dairy Records Committee will offer an opinion of accuracy of equipment or method when they have been tested and results published by three or more colleges, experiment stations, or independent research laboratories. The responsible supervising agency and/or the regulatory agency in each State shall have authority to approve equipment or methods found to produce results within tolerances established by the ADSA Dairy Records Committee.

Tolerances are as follows:

- a. Butterfat test on individual cows shall be within plus or minus 0.2 of the fat test obtained by conventional sampling methods.
- b. Daily milk weights as compared to an accurate scale should be within 3 percent or one-half pound, whichever

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is the greater, and the error should be random so it will cancel with repeated sampling.

Ninety percent of the tests and weights should fall within these limits.

2. COOPERATION OF OWNER

Owners must make available all registration certificates and other information for permanent identification of animals on test and of their offspring. They must provide the supervisor with freshening and dry dates, purchase and sale dates, abortion dates, and death dates. When requested they must cooperate and assist the supervisor in obtaining feed weights, roughage quality, value of product, breeding dates, and any information needed for the calculation of complete DHIA records.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Every animal in DHIA herds must be positively identified and recorded in the owner's herd book within 60 days after entering the herd by birth or purchase. A herd registry page is provided for this purpose. Cows on test must be permanently identified with (1) registration number, if registered, or (2) uniform series eartags as used in DHIA, disease eradication, and artificial breeding (State code; 1-, 2-, or 3-letter prefix; 4 digits).

The supervisor shall verify the identity of each cow, when entered on test by registration certificates, if registered, or by eartag numbers, if not registered and record the information on appropriate forms. Thereafter, at each milking, the supervisor must assure himself of the correct identity of each cow as she is milked.

Tattoo numbers, branded numbers, or private eartags are acceptable identification provided that they are cross-indexed to one of the above identification systems.

Supplemental identification.--Neck chains, strap numbers, or other numbering systems may be used on young stock until they enter the milking herd. They also may be used as secondary identification for milking cows provided that they are cross-indexed with permanent identification.

4. PRODUCTION REPORTS

DHIA lactation records shall be computed and reported for every cow on test for each calving. Monthly and yearly herd reports shall also be computed and reported as required by the county and State extension service.

5. COWS TO BE TESTED

DHIA records must be kept on all dairy cows in the herd or on the farm that have ever calved, regardless of ownership, except as specified in the rule on permanent nurse cows. DHIA herds shall consist of all cows that have freshened at least once, located on one or more farms under one management.

Members owning or operating more than one farm may devide their herds into farm units, and each may be tested as a separate unit when the units are maintained as separate herds and there is no shifting of cows between herds. In single herds involving two or more distinctly individual breeds, separate herd averages or a composite herd average may be calculated and reported as such.

The owner or his management is required to report to the supervisor all cows added to or removed from the herd since the previous test, as well as first-calf heifers that have calved.

In any case involving the questionable assignment of cows to a herd to influence a herd average, the decision of the local or State Board of Directors in council with the State Extension Dairyman in Charge of Production Testing shall be considered final. In special cases involving joint operation of herds or groups of cows, the local Board of Directors in council with the State Extension Dairyman shall decide the policy.

6. MONTHLY AND BIMONTHLY TESTING

Associations may operate on the monthly or bimonthly basis or on both, as approved by the State Extension Dairyman.

7. NUMBER OF COWS TESTED DAILY

The number of cows and herds tested daily shall be left

to the judgement and discretion of the DHIA Board of Directors and State Extension Dairymen concerned. They will consider the ability of the supervisor, milking facilities, and type of records being kept.

The number of cows tested shall be limited as much as necessary to allow sufficient time for the supervisor on each visit to the farm to properly comply with all the Standard DHIA Rules, such as the identification of all animals in the herd, including eartagging when necessary; proper supervision of milking, including the identification of the cows being milked; using the proper procedures and methods of sampling, including the handling of samples and the use of a locked sample case; obtaining and using his own data; properly recording data on the barn sheet; keeping the owner's herd book up-to-date; and making all required monthly, yearly, and lactation reports. Sufficient time also shall be allowed for the supervisor to check all his work and reports for accuracy before leaving the farm.

8. SUPERVISION OF MILKERS AND COWS

The herd owner shall milk his cows in such order that on the testing day cows being milked at the same time will be in close proximity and full view of the supervisor for observation.

The supervisor must be in position to observe the milkers, machines, and cows during the entire milking process.

9. SUPERVISOR USES OWN DATA

The supervisor or a person or central processing service authorized and approved by the State Extension Dairymen and the responsible organization shall compute the production records for a testing period from the data obtained on the testing date.

10. CENTERING THE TESTING DAY

Production records shall be calculated by centering the testing day according to the method outlined in the DHIA Supervisor's Manual. All tests shall be applied to the testing period in which made.

11. SUPERVISOR'S ROUTE

In order that the herd owner may not know the exact day the supervisor will visit a farm, the supervisor shall from time to time vary his visits to each farm as much as 3 days ahead of, or 3 days after, the centering day.

12. LOCK SAMPLE CASES

All milk samples, glassware, and the current monthly barn sheet with recorded test day data shall be securely locked by the supervisor when they are not under his immediate observation.

13. METHODS OF SAMPLING

All weighing, sampling, and recording of each milking of each cow for the 24-hour period must be done by the supervisor or person authorized by the local DHIA Board of Directors. Each cow's milk must be thoroughly mixed immediately before sampling.

14. LOST SAMPLES

When a sample is lost, the previous month's butterfat test shall be used. When milk weights are not obtained, the pounds of milk for the current testing day shall be estimated from the previous month's record by use of the nurse-cow table in the DHIA Supervisor's Manual. In either case, the record shall be marked "estimated".

15. ABNORMAL TESTS

In cases of severe sickness or injury, except for the first month of lactation, a 40-percent change in total daily pounds of fat from the preceding test shall be considered abnormal. Abnormally high or low records due to causes such as sickness, severe injury, and off feed shall be handled similarly to lost samples. In case a cow is abnormal 2 months in succession, her actual production shall be used to compute credits for the second month.

16. RETESTS, OWNER'S REQUEST

If for any reason a herd owner is not satisfied with the test on his herd, he may call for a retest. The herd

owner shall pay the cost of the retest unless otherwise determined by the local Board of Directors. The use of the requested retest and the regular test shall be at the discretion of the State Extension Dairyman.

17. SURPRISE TESTS - DHIA

Surprise tests may be conducted for verification of records of high producing cows and herds and for investigation of rule infractions. They may be ordered by the State or local organization and/or the State Extension Dairyman.

The use of the surprise test and the payment thereof shall be determined by the organization requiring such tests. Surprise tests shall be preceded by a preliminary dry milking.

18. SURPRISE TESTS - DHIR

The State official in charge of DHIA testing shall arrange for surprise tests under the following conditions, or when requested to do so by the breed registry organizations.

a. Production requirements.--If, after the first 90 days of a lactation, a cow equals or exceeds the daily butterfat production shown in column A, by ages, one surprise test with preliminary milking shall be made within the next two months, if possible; and two surprise tests shall be made before the 305th day for those cows who equal or exceed the average daily butterfat shown in column B after the first 90 days.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
2 yrs.	2.8 lb. fat daily	2.9 lb. fat daily
3 yrs.	3.1 lb. fat daily	3.3 lb. fat daily
4 yrs. and over	3.4 lb. fat daily	3.7 lb. fat daily

These surprise tests shall include the entire herd except that in herds requiring more than one day's supervision, only the cows meeting the surprise test requirements need be included.

The preliminary milking need not be sampled or tested. The breed registry organization shall be notified by the State Superintendent of Official Testing of cows and herds on which surprise tests have been conducted by use of the PDCA Surprise Test Form.

- b. Use of surprise test.--The surprise test shall be used in lieu of the regular monthly test and, if possible, shall be made by a different supervisor. Whether or not a regular test will also be conducted during the month is left to the discretion of the local DHIA Board of Directors.
- c. Payment of surprise test.--During any calendar year, the herd owner shall pay for all surprise tests conducted in place of the regular tests and the herd owner shall also pay for the first surprise test made in addition to a regular test. The breed registry organization will pay for all other extra tests.

Brown Swiss: All surprise test costs will be paid by the owner, except those ordered by the association.

19. FRESH COWS - DRY COWS - COWS SOLD

A cow shall not be tested until the seventh day after she calves, counting the day of calving as the first day. The record, however, is started on the fourth day after calving, counting the calving day as the first day. Cows freshening after the supervisor's regular visit and before the end of the testing period shall be given credit for their production during that period, as calculated on the basis of the results of the next test. For dry cows - the dry date is the first day the cow is not milked. The day a cow is sold and leaves the herd counts as the last day in the herd, and she gets production for that full day.

20. ABORTING COWS OR COWS FRESHENING WITHOUT GOING DRY

In case a cow aborts while dry, her record shall be figured the same as for a fresh cow. If she aborts while in milk and has carried a calf less than 152 days, her current record shall continue without interruption. If a breeding date is not available and the cow aborts while in milk for less than 200 days, her current record shall continue without interruption. Otherwise the current record shall end and a new lactation shall begin.

21. COWS NURSING CALVES

- a. Temporary nurse cow.--Cows nursing calves on the testing

day are considered on test. Records other than production are taken as usual and recorded in the herd record book. No milk samples are taken. Milk weights and tests obtained on the last testing day before calves are put on cows or on the first testing day after calves have been removed are used in computing production for the testing period in which calves are nursed, along with the nurse-cow table in the DHIA Supervisor's Manual. The recorded number of days in milk for the lactation shall include the number of days the cows nursed calves during the lactation period.

If records are calculated by a computing center, they will be coded as required.

b. Permanent nurse cow.--At the request of the herd owner, a cow that is to be used as a nurse cow throughout the entire lactation period may be removed from test from the date of freshening until the following date of freshening, provided she has at least one complete lactation record.

Permanent nurse cows are to be re-entered on test at the following calving unless they are requalified. Cows are disqualified as permanent nurse cows if at any time they are milked by machine or by hand.

22. YEARLY HERD AVERAGES

The yearly herd average is calculated on a cow-year basis. As outlined in the footnotes on the monthly herd summary, DHIA-12, the total number of cow-days on test for the year is divided by 365 (366 in a leap year) to obtain the number of cow-years. The totals for the year are divided by the number of cow-years to obtain the herd averages for the year.

23. YEARLY ASSOCIATION AVERAGE

The association average is found by dividing the total pounds of milk and total pounds of butterfat by the total cow-years.

24. COMPUTING FRACTIONS

The weights of milk at each milking and the day's total of milk are to be recorded to the nearest one-tenth of a

pound; the month's milk to the nearest 10 pounds. Butterfat tests shall be recorded to the nearest one-tenth of a percent and monthly butterfat to the nearest pound. The price per hundredweight of milk and feed may be taken to the nearest 10 cents. The value of product and cost of feed may be to the nearest whole dollar. If the fraction is less than half, drop it. If half or more, change to the next highest number.

25. FEEDING AND CARE OF COWS

- a. The details of feeding and caring for cows on Standard DHIA are under the direction of the owner. At no time shall any condiments, conditioning compounds, tonics, drugs, or hormonal products be given the cow unless it is necessary in providing adequate medical attention in case of sickness or injury.
- b. Any practice that is intended to create or does create an abnormal percentage or abnormal yield of milk is a violation. The use of any product producing thyroidal effects is prohibited.

26. RELATION OF SUPERVISORS AND OWNERS

As an employee of the local dairy herd improvement association, the supervisor's duty is to see that the tests are honestly made, accurately recorded, and completely reported. No payment, gift, or gratuity to supervisor is permitted from the owner of a cow or anyone interested in her. The supervisor may act as a collecting agent for the association. He may collect payment for dues and fees for the association, provided a receipt is given the member and a carbon copy of the same receipt is given to the association treasurer. The supervisor shall not test his own herd nor the herd of the immediate members of his family. The supervisor is not at liberty to decide which rules are essential and which are not, but is required to observe all of them in detail. Owners or persons in their employ are equally held responsible with the supervisor for enforcement of these rules.

27. ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARD DHIA RULES

Any violations of the above rules including fraudulent practices shall be referred to the local or State DHIA Board of Directors for their consideration and appropriate action.

UNIFIED RULES FOR DHIR
(In addition to Standard DHIA Rules)

(Revised and Accepted 1965, by the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association and the American Dairy Science Association)

Member Dairy Cattle Registry Organizations:

The American Guernsey Cattle Club, Peterborough, N.H. 03458
The American Jersey Cattle Club, 1521 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43205
Ayrshire Breeders' Association, Brandon, Vt. 05733
The Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association, Beloit, Wis. 53512
Holstein-Friesian Association of America, Brattleboro, Vt. 05302

Upon receipt by a dairy breed registry organization (PDCA member) of an application for the acceptance of Standard DHIA records on a form provided by the breed registry organization and payment of the required fees set forth on the application, electronically calculated Standard Dairy Herd Improvement Association records of all registered cows of that breed in the herd or herds of the applicant will be accepted for use by the breed registry organization, subject to the following requirements in addition to those currently set forth, or which may from time to time be set forth, for Standard DHIA testing. These records will be designated as "Dairy Herd Improvement Registry" (DHIR) records.

1. ORGANIZATION AND SUPERVISIONAL AUTHORITY

The DHIR production testing program shall be conducted under the joint administration of the State Extension Dairyman or other State official in charge of DHIA testing within a particular State and the Superintendent of Official Testing of the appropriate breed registry organization. The State Official in charge of DHIA testing is responsible for supervising all records in strict accordance with the rules and regulations for Standard DHIA testing and the additional requirements set forth herein and any additional requirements of the appropriate breed registry organization. He shall assume responsibility for the enforcement of all such rules and regulations and shall withhold approval of production records from a herd owner or from a DHIA supervisor

that are not made in strict accordance with the rules and regulations. He has the further responsibility of calling to the attention of the Superintendent of Official Testing of the appropriate breeding registry organization all failures by herd owners to comply with the rules of the DHIR testing program.

DHIA records from any herd or any DHIA where the compensation of the DHIA supervisor is made directly by the herd owner will not be accepted or approved under this plan.

The Superintendent of Official Testing of the breed registry organization is responsible for advising the State official in charge of DHIA testing on all matters concerned with the acceptance of DHIR records by the appropriate breed registry organization. The Superintendent of Official Testing of the appropriate breed registry organization reserves the right to accept or reject any records reported by the State official in charge of DHIA testing within the State and assumes full responsibility for initiating any disciplinary action concerned with records in progress or already accepted and approved by the breed registry organization.

2. BASIC DATA

- a. Identification of animals.--At the time of the first test of a herd for which an application has been filed for the acceptance of DHIR records, the DHIA supervisor must positively identify each cow in the herd by comparison of the color markings or tattoo mark in the ear with the registry certificate and must make sure that all registered cows owned by the applicant are tested. New cows entering the herd by purchase or freshening must be similarly identified at the time of their first test supervision.
- b. Supplemental identification.--Supplemental identification such as numbers on sealed collars or sealed neck-chains, numbers branded on the cows, or other permanent non-transferable identification marks that have been properly cross-checked with the registration certificates, may be used for positive identification at succeeding monthly test supervisions. Unless such suitable supplemental identification is provided and maintained by the owner, the registration certificates must be used at each monthly test for identification of all animals tested. The DHIA supervisor will be held responsible for the absolute accuracy of identification of all cows tested at each test period.

- c. The DHIA supervisor.--The DHIA supervisor will be responsible for reporting each month any change in status of each cow in the herd, such as calving date, purchase date, date of sale and for what purpose, or other dates affecting the production record of each animal, as well as the milk production and butterfat test of each cow during the test period. He shall also report any unusual or abnormal conditions that may affect the reliability of the test and any violations of the rules by the owner or attendants shall be reported immediately by the DHIA supervisor to the State official in charge of DHIA testing within the State.
- d. The herd owner.--The herd owner shall be responsible for providing, at the time of each monthly test, all basic data needed by the supervisor for a complete and accurate report on each cow in the herd. He shall also be responsible for supplying the supervisor with complete information on cows removed from the herd.
- e. Cancellation of certificate of registry.--For information write respective breed registry organization.

3. SURPRISE TESTS

(See DHIA Rule 18.)

4. AVAILABILITY OF DATA

Uniform production data and other data pertinent to the production records shall be provided to the appropriate breed registry organization from the State or regional DHIA processing laboratory on all registered cows in herds enrolled in the DHIR testing program. The Processing Laboratory shall make two reports for each cow. The first of these reports shall include any and all production for a lactation up to 305 days in length; reports of such lactation records shall be forwarded to the breed registry organization at monthly intervals. The other report shall include all production from date of freshening or date of entering the herd to dry date or to date of disposal; reports of such records shall be forwarded at intervals of not more than 90 days. These reports shall be transmitted by the State or regional DHIA Processing Laboratory to the breed registry organizations on PDCA Form No. 1.

In the electronic processing and calculation of production records, the milk weights of each milking shall be added electronically to obtain daily milk weights, the days in the testing period shall be electronically computed from the dates reported, and 305-day and total lactation records shall be electronically computed and reported only after the cow has actually milked 305 days or has completed her lactation.

5. COSTS FOR DHIR TESTING

Each breed organization shall set its own fees for entering a herd on DHIR test. It shall be an annual fee, payable at the time of application, and at yearly intervals thereafter. Notice shall be given by the breed registry organization to the State official in charge of DHIA testing when a breeder has made application for DHIR testing.

<u>Breed</u>	<u>Annual testing fee per herd</u>	<u>Per cow per year</u>
Ayrshire	----	\$2.00
Brown Swiss	\$ 3.00	1.00
Guernsey	5.00	2.25
Holstein	10.00	1.50
Jersey	15.00	2.00

6. DISHONEST OR FRAUDULENT PRACTICE

If the State Superintendent of Official Testing is satisfied that dishonest or fraudulent practices have been used in making official records, he must report same to the breed registry organization. If the Superintendent of Official Testing of the breed registry organization is convinced that any dishonest or fraudulent practices have been employed in the making of the records, he may refuse to approve the test. If the records have been accepted and the certificates issued, the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may, after due notice is given and a hearing held, cancel such certificates and expunge the records.

7. RIGHT OF SEARCH

The supervisor has the right to search the milker at any time. Refusal on the part of the milker will be construed as evidence of intent to make a fraudulent test.

8. BONUSES NOT ALLOWED

Payment of herd or barn bonuses to milkers may be permitted if based on total milk sold. The payment of a bonus based on production for individual cows on test is prohibited.

9. GUARANTY TO COLLEGES

The breed associations, under the DHIR program, will guarantee to the State Colleges supervising the program payment for surprise tests and any supervisory office fees not in excess of three (3) months related to DHIR. The payment of monthly DHIA tests is not covered under this guaranty for herds on DHIR.

10. OFFICIAL TESTING A PRIVILEGE

The acceptance of tests for official testing is at the discretion of the breed registry organization, and is not a matter of right accorded a member, but is a privilege to be granted or refused at the discretion of the breed registry organization.

11. REVISION OF RULES

Any revision of these rules shall be made by a joint committee of The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association and The American Dairy Science Association, but must be approved by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors of the respective breed registry organizations.

12. MATTERS NOT COVERED BY RULES

Matters not covered by these rules shall be administered by the respective Superintendents of Official Testing of the breed registry organizations and their decisions shall be final.

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